

a.) Amendments to the Claims

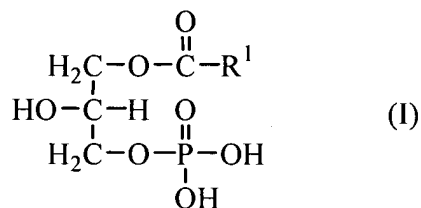
1. (Currently Amended) A hair-growing agent comprising, as active ingredients, only one or more members selected from the group consisting of lysophosphatidic acids, and phosphatidic acids ~~wherein the~~ having a fatty acid residue moiety consists only that consists of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms, said number being in the range of 2 to 24, where minoidil is excluded.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the content of one or more members selected from the group consisting of lysophosphatidic acids, and phosphatidic acids wherein the fatty acid residue moiety consists only of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms is 0.01 to 5.0%.

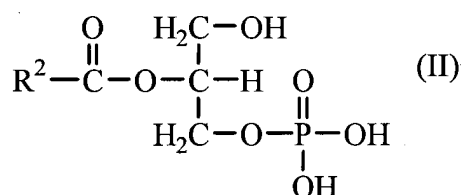
4. (Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the content of one or more members selected from the group consisting of lysophosphatidic acids, and phosphatidic acids wherein the fatty acid residue moiety consists only of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms is 0.01 to 1.0%.

5. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, 3 or 4, wherein the lysophosphatidic acids are compounds represented by formula (I):



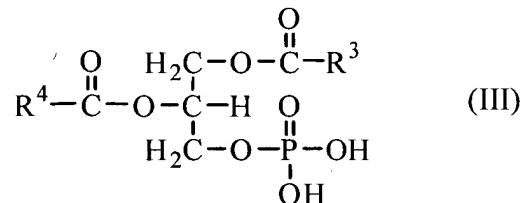
(~~wherein~~ wherein R^1 represents alkyl, alkenyl or ~~alkynyl~~) alkynyl.

6. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, 3 or 4, wherein the lysophosphatidic acids are compounds represented by formula (II):



~~wherein R^2 has the same significance as the above R^1~~) wherein R^2 represents alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl.

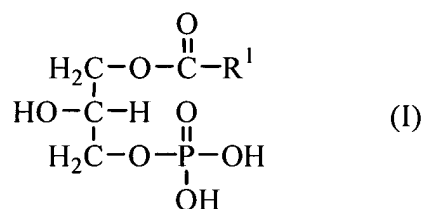
7. (Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, 3 or 4, wherein the phosphatidic acids ~~wherein the fatty acid residue moiety consists only of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms~~ are compounds represented by formula (III):



(~~wherein~~ wherein R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, each represents straight-chain alkyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, straight-chain alkenyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, or straight-chain alkynyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, the odd number being in the range of 1 to 23).

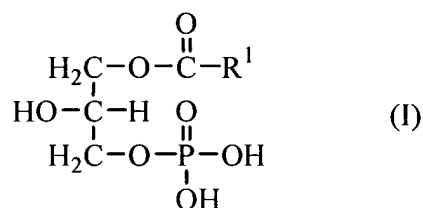
Claims 8-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to Claim 3, wherein the lysophosphatidic acids are compounds represented by formula (I):



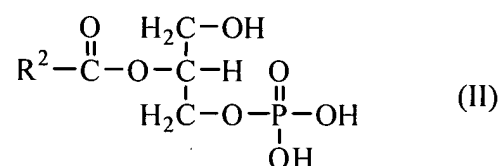
(~~wherein~~ wherein R¹ represents alkyl, alkenyl or ~~alkynyl~~) alkynyl.

24. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to Claim 4, wherein the lysophosphatidic acids are compounds represented by formula (I):



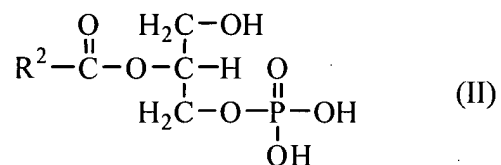
(~~wherein~~ wherein R¹ represents alkyl, alkenyl or ~~alkynyl~~) alkynyl.

25. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to Claim 3, wherein the lysophosphatidic acids are compounds represented by formula (II):



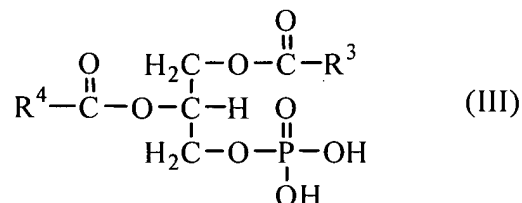
~~(wherein R² has the same significance as the above R¹)~~ wherein R² represents alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl.

26. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to Claim 4, wherein the lysophosphatidic acids are compounds represented by formula (II):



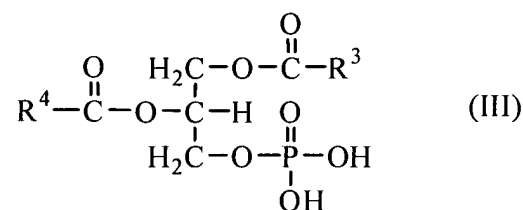
~~(wherein R² has the same significance as the above R¹)~~ wherein R² represents alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl.

27. (Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to Claim 3, wherein the phosphatidic acids ~~wherein the fatty acid residue moiety consists only of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms~~ are compounds represented by formula (III):



(~~wherein~~ wherein R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, each represents straight-chain alkyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, straight-chain alkenyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, or straight-chain alkynyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, the odd number being in the range of 1 to 23).

28. (Currently Amended) The hair-growing agent according to Claim 4, wherein the phosphatidic acids ~~wherein the fatty acid residue moiety consists only of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms~~ are compounds represented by formula (III):



(~~wherein~~ wherein R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, each represents straight-chain alkyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, straight-chain alkenyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, or straight-chain alkynyl having an odd number of carbon atoms, the odd number being in the range of 1 to 23).

Claims 29-43 (Cancelled).

44. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method for stimulating hair growth in a mammal, which comprises applying to the skin of said mammal ~~one or more members selected from the group consisting of lysophosphatidic acids, and phosphatidic acids wherein the fatty acid residue moiety consists only of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms~~ the hair growing agent according to claim 1, 3 or 4.

45. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method for stimulating hair growth in a mammal, which comprises applying to the skin of said mammal ~~one or more member selected from the group consisting of lysophosphatidic acids and phosphatidic acids, and one or more members selected from the group consisting of proanthocyanidin, protein kinase C-specific inhibitors or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and tocopherol~~ the hair growing agent of claim 5.

46. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) ~~The A method according to Claim 45, wherein the phosphatidic acids are those wherein the fatty acid residue moiety consists only of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms~~ for stimulating hair growth in a mammal, which comprises applying to the skin of said mammal the hair growing agent of claim 6.

47. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method ~~of preparing a for stimulating hair growing composition, comprising selecting one or more members selected from the group consisting of lysophosphatidic acids, and phosphatidic acids wherein the fatty acid residue moiety consists only of straight-chain fatty acid residues having an even number of carbon atoms, and admixing said member with an acceptable diluent~~ growth in a mammal, which comprises applying to the skin of said mammal the hair growing agent of claim 7.

Claims 48-49 (Cancelled).